

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15

STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01

DOE-15 EUR-12 /136 W

-----007451 031724Z /53

R 030819Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5409

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 2233

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT MTN CM

SUBJECT: CAMEROON AND THE MTN

REF: A. STATE 89948; B. YAOUNDE 1953

1. MAY 2, EMBOFF PAID CALL ON VINCENT OWONA, DEPTY DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN, AMERICAN AND OCEANIC AFFAIRS AT MFA TO DISCUSS MTN. EMBOFF CONVEYED CONTENTS REFTEL A AND INFORMED OWONA OF UNITED STATES INDICATIVE LST OF TRADE INTERESTS IN CAMEROON, I.E. LIBREALIZATION OF DISCRETIONARY LICENSING FOR, AND REMOVAL OF 5 PERCENT QUOTE DROIT D'ENTRE UNQUOTE. ON, AGRICULTURAL WHEELED TRACTORS (UDEAC CODE 870131). OWONA PROMISED TO RAISE SUBJECT OF BOTH THESE NON-TARIFF BARRIERS WITH RELEVANT MINISTRIES.

2. OWONA TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF VISIT TO INFORM EMBOFF THAT GURC WOULD LIKE TO HAVE U.S.G. LOWER TARIFF ON SRAPPER TOBACCO AND FILLER TOBACCO MIXED WITH WRAPPER (TSUS 170.10 AND 170.20). OWONA SAID THAT CURRENT US TARIFF IS FCFA 227 PER HALF KILO WHILE EEC TARIFF IS FCFA 99 PER HALF KILO. (FCFA 232 - \$1.00; IN TSUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TARIFF IS GIVEN AS \$.909 PER POUND). GURC WOULD LIKE U.S. TARIFF TO BE NO HIGHER THAN THAT OF EEC.

3. EMBOFF PROMISED OWONA HE WOULD TRANSMIT GURC REQUEST TO BOTH WASHINGTON AND US DELEGATION MTN GENEVA BUT ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MFA INFORM GURC EMBASSY BONN (WHICH COVERS MTN) OF BOTH U.S. AND GURC TRADE INTERESTS AS DISCUSSED IN THIS MEETING.

OWONA AGREED TO DO SO AND ALSO STATED HE WOULD TRANSMIT GURC REQUEST TO EMBASSY VIA A DIP NOTE.

4. COMMENT: CAMEROONIAN REQUEST FOR LOWER TARIFF ON TOBACCO IS A RESULT OF DEPTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRANK'S MEETINGS WITH GURC MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE, ON MARCH 23 (REF B). DURING THESE MEETINGS MR. FRANK INFORMED THE MINISTERS THAT ACCORDING US STATISTICS CAMEROON WAS PRINCIPAL U.S. SUPPLIER OF WRAPPER TOBACCO WITHOUT STEMS AND FILLER TOBACCO MIXED WITH WRAPPER. IT IS WORTH NOTING AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THAT CAMEROON STATISTICS SHOW EXPORTS OF ONLY ABOUT \$76,000 OF QUOTE TOBACCO WASTES UNQUOTE (EDEAC CODE 240121) IN 1977. SINCE MAIN TOBACCO GROWING AREA STRADDLES BORDER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE REPORTED US IMPORTS MAY ORIGINATE IN CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE AND ARE TRANSSHIPPED THROUGH CAMEROON. MITHOEFER

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